



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, December 5, 1973

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COMMUNITY & YOUTH OFFICERS SCHEME ESTABLISHED

The Social Welfare Department formally established the Community and Youth Officers Scheme today (Wednesday) with the appointment of six officers to work at the district level in different areas of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and the New Territories.

The six community and youth officers appointed are Mr. Lam Kwok-wan for Eastern District, Mr. Lam Hark-chee for Wanchai, Mr. Lai Cham-kan for Western on Hong Kong Island; Mr. Yeung Wai-tsang for Yaumatei, Mr. Chan Chap-yun for Shamshuipo in Kowloon and Mr. Fung Ka-ching for Tsuen Wan in the New Territories.

Announcing their appointments at a press conference today, Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department said the idea of working with communities or neighbours is not new to the Department.

"Since 1960, the Group and Community Work Division of the Department has been doing community work through its community and social centres. The Community and Youth Officers Scheme is an extension of the department's community work in urban and rural areas.

"We are starting off with six districts first. The other five urban districts will have CYOs appointed in February and the other four rural districts in July next year.

Mr. Lee said this Scheme was the result of an experiment which the Social Welfare Department started in 1969 known as the District Community Officer Scheme.

/"The aim

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"The aim of community and youth work is the development of a more integrated and better community with the help of the social worker and the maximum participation of the people themselves as well as the development of youth to become more civic-minded and contributing members of the community," he said.

He explained the main functions of the Community and Youth Officer will be to establish a wider and closer contact with groups and organisations in the districts, and to involve them in the development of welfare programmes and activities, such as community recreation, community service and volunteers to meet the changing needs of different communities or districts.

"The Community and Youth Officer is a trained social worker and as such will have the know-how to involve the community in developing or bringing about such programmes and activities."

He noted that the work of the community and youth officer will be closely related to that of the City District Officer and the District Officer in the New Territories.

"In fact, they will work as a team," he said.

Being a social worker, Mr. Lee pointed out, the CYO will be able to provide the City District Officer and the District Officer with the necessary expertise in the initiation and organisation of community activities. He believed the Community and Youth Officers Scheme would be a valuable addition to the work of the district as a whole.

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Note to Editors: Photographs of the newly appointed community and youth officers are boxed for collection.

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THIRTY DIE ON BUILDING SITES THIS YEAR

Apathy Towards Safety Precautions Criticised

The number of accidents on Hong Kong construction sites leapt by 70 per cent in October, bringing the monthly toll to three dead and 509 injured.

So far this year, accidents on construction sites have claimed 30 lives and injured 3,653 workers. A very large number of the injured have been crippled for life.

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, said today that in the past 10 years there had been more than 28,000 accidents in the construction industry; and these accounted for one fifth of all accidents at work during the same period.

"Unless building contractors and their workers appreciate the magnitude of the problem, and urgently take remedial measures, the situation will continue to get worse," he warned.

Mr. Price stressed he was not talking about statistics, but of human lives and suffering.

"The tragedy is that nearly all of these accidents could have been avoided if proper safety precautions had been taken," he added.

About 60 per cent of the accidents were due to persons or objects falling from heights, misuse of handtools, incorrect manual lifting and handling, and tripping over objects.

Mr. Price urged management and workers in the construction industry to visit the department's Industrial Safety Exhibition at the CMA Fair beginning on Tuesday, December 11.

/The exhibition

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The exhibition - the first of its kind in South East Asia - includes a special section on safety in the construction industry, and illustrates, among other items, the new safety regulations for the industry which will come into force on May 1, 1974. Copies of a guide to these regulations will also be available free of charge.

The exhibition, which will last for the whole period of the CMA Fair from December 11 to January 9 will also illustrate by actual demonstrations, films, and workshop settings, work hazards in a wide range of other industries, and the measures required to counter them.

"The exhibition is a must for every employer, manager, supervisor and worker", Mr. Price said.

The Commissioner said the exhibition was supported by other government departments, various employers' organisations, and individual industrial establishments. "The willingness of so many employers to join forces with the government in staging this exhibition clearly indicates that there is an awareness on the part of management that it needs to play a greater part in promoting work safety.

"And the success of the fight against accidents at work depends on the growth of this support," he said.

Mr. Price added that the Labour Department's Industrial Safety Training Centre had recently organised a number of courses specifically designed to explain the requirements of the new building safety regulations.

"These courses are free of charge, and any contractor who has not yet applied for places should do so without delay," he said.

/"So far

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"So far only 38 out of the 1,600 registered contractors have come forward to take part in the courses.

"This indicates an irresponsible and frightening apathy by those who should be most concerned for their worker's safety.

"Officers from a recently-formed unit of the factory inspectorates are already visiting construction sites to offer advice as to how contractors can meet quickly the higher standards of safety required by the new regulations when they become effective on May 1, 1974."

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WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Sham Shui Po will be interrupted for five hours from 1 a.m. on Friday (December 7) to facilitate a test for leakage.

The area affected is bounded by Kiu Kiang Street, Po On Road, Pratas Street, Castle Peak Road, Tonkin Street, Fuk Wing Street, Camp Street and Cheung Sha Wan Road, including Shamshuipo Barracks Mechanical Workshop.

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'NO STOPPING' KERB MARKINGS BEING INTRODUCED

'No stopping' markings in bright yellow will be painted along the kerbside of bus and tram stops to make it clear that only franchised buses and trams may stop within the marked area.

The markings will extend about 50 feet on both sides of the bus and tram stops.

The first 'no stopping' markings will be introduced on Friday (December 7) along Hennessy Road on Hong Kong Island, and along Taipo Road and Castle Peak Road in Kowloon.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said that the main purpose of the measure was to ensure that bus and tram stops were free of parked vehicles.

This will enable the buses to pull into their stops unhindered.

He reminded motorists that it is an offence under the Road Traffic (Parking and Waiting) Regulations to park or wait on a road within 50 feet of a designated bus or tram stop.

He said that very often vehicles could be seen parked on the approaches to bus stops, making it difficult or impossible for buses to pull into the stops.

As a result, buses were forced to pick up or set down passengers in the middle of the road, thus causing obstruction to following vehicles and inconveniencing and placing passengers at risk.

The new measure should be able to eliminate all these, the spokesman said.

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MORE WORKERS ENTITLED TO PAID HOLIDAYS

A leaflet explaining new provisions under which more employees will be entitled to paid holidays has been prepared by the Labour Department.

The new provisions, which come into effect on January 1, 1974, apply to all manual workers irrespective of earnings and to those non-manual workers earning \$1,500 a month or less and who have worked continuously for their employer at least three months before a statutory holiday.

These are: Lunar New Year's day; the second day of Lunar New Year; Ching Ming Festival; Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival; the day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival; and the first day of January.

Under the new provisions, restaurant workers and shop assistants will enjoy the same benefits as industrial workers. Previously, the benefits applied only to manual workers and non-manual workers in industry with a monthly earning of up to \$700 and who had been with their employer for more than six months.

An employer may give his employee an alternative holiday before or after a statutory holiday, provided he gives sufficient notice and the employee agrees.

Details of these arrangements are explained in the leaflet which also sets out the methods of calculating the rate of holiday pay, and payment.

Employers who fail to grant their employees any holiday or the holiday pay due will be liable to a fine of \$5,000 on conviction.

Copies of the leaflet, in both English and Chinese, are available free of charge from the Labour Department's branch offices, City District Offices and District Offices of the New Territories Administration.

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR MACAU

The Governor and Lady MacLehose left this (Wednesday) morning for Macau on an informal visit as guests of the Governor of Macau and Madame Nobre de Carvalho.

They were accompanied by the Aide-de-Camp, Mr. P.A. Barkley and the Political Adviser, Mr. R.J. Stratton.

Travelling with the party on board the hydrofoil, the Flying Sandpiper, was the Portuguese Consul General in Hong Kong, Mr. C.A. Simoes Coelho, and Mrs. Coelho.

Sir Murray and Lady MacLehose will spend the day visiting places of interest in Macau.

This evening, they will attend a dinner at the Governor's residence.

Before returning to Hong Kong tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon, the Governor and Lady MacLehose will pay a visit to Taipa and Coloane Islands.

Note to Editors: A photograph taken before the departure of the Governor and Lady MacLehose will be distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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CHRISTMAS CHEER AT HOSPITALS

The band of the Auxiliary Medical Service will bring Christmas cheer to several hospitals in a series of yuletide concerts beginning on December 15.

"We do this every year in response to requests, and we find that the patients and staff look forward eagerly to this break from routine," says Major G.F. Doggett, Medical Defence Staff Officer.

"The programmes blend well-known selections with a sprinkling of carols and some pop, because we find that we have to please all tastes."

Major Doggett says the AMS band is composed of 50 members, who train regularly, and who have a personal interest in music. They take part in numerous ceremonial occasions, and are always in demand.

The first concert this season will be given in the Ruttonjee Sanatorium and St. Paul's Hospital on Saturday, December 15, beginning at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. respectively.

On December 19, the venues will be the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the morning, and the Kwong Wah Hospital in the afternoon.

The last concert will be for the benefit of patients and staff at the Grantham Hospital on December 21, at 12.30 p.m.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have these concerts covered.

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TWO PRE-WAR BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL CONDEMNED

The Building Authority today declared Nos. 115 and 117 Wing Lok Street, in Central District, to be in a dangerous condition, and No. 113 liable to become dangerous.

In a statement, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these three-storey pre-war buildings were recently inspected in detail following the discovery of defects in No. 117 which had been under observation for some time.

"This inspection revealed a total failure of the rear portion of the party wall between Nos. 115 and 117 in the ground floor. It is considered that there is imminent danger of collapse of this portion," he said.

Serious fracturing and fresh movement in the front and rear walls of No. 117 was also observed together with many defective timbers, he added.

"The condition of the party wall between Nos. 113 and 115 is also such that there is risk of failure leading to collapse of No. 113 during the demolition of No. 115."

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on December 13 were posted today.

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PRISONS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PARADE

Note to Editors: The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will inspect the annual parade of the Prisons Department on Friday (December 7).

Ten contingents comprising about 230 men from various prisons and centres of the department will take part in the parade.

The Governor will present Colonial Prison Service Medals and Clasps to 17 officers.

Lady MacLehose will also attend the ceremony which begins at 4.45 p.m. on the parade ground of the department's Staff Training Institute in Stanley.

Members of the press are invited to cover the event. Transport will be provided. A car will leave Queen's Pier at 3.30 p.m. for Stanley.

Reporters and photographers assigned to cover the occasion are advised that no one will be allowed to enter the parade area after 4.55 p.m.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Wednesday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		
		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien - old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Brokens	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Scarce	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.0	2.5	3.3
Big-Eyes	Good	2.5	0.65	1.6
Squid	Limited	5.3	2.5	4.2
Hair-Tails	Good	1.6	0.9	1.3
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.5	0.7	1.5
Croakers	Normal	1.4	0.8	1.2
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.3	1.8	2.0
Melon Coat	Limited	2.0	1.0	1.8
Breams	Normal	4.5	2.8	3.5
Yellow Belly	Limited	2.2	0.7	1.5
Mackerels	Good	3.3	2.1	2.8
Red Goat Fish	Normal	2.9	0.6	1.5
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.5	0.8	1.0
Horse-Head	Normal	5.5	3.0	3.8
Melon Seed	Normal	2.8	1.8	2.0
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.0	6.0	7.0
Garoupas	Normal	6.8	4.0	6.5
Yellow Croaker	Good	4.8	2.1	2.8

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.2	1.0	1.6
White cabbage	Normal	0.6	0.15	0.45
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.5	0.15	0.4
Chinese Kale	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.7
Spring onion	Normal	1.4	0.4	1.0
Spinach	Normal	1.3	0.6	1.0
Water cress	Normal	1.2	0.3	0.8
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.5	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Scarce	2.2	1.4	1.8

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
Pork	Good	(Average) 285

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.